

Colonel Tracy O. Smith

STRATEFF, Chief of Economics Development Branch, MNF-I

COL Smith is a native of Toomsba, Mississippi who started his military career as an Enlisted Soldier in the Mississippi Army National Guard (150th Quarter Master Battalion, Meridian, Mississippi) in 1981. He is currently deployed to Baghdad, Iraq where he has been assigned since 25 June 2007 as part of Multi-National Forces- Iraq, Strategic Effects/Economics Division for his third tour of combat since joining the Army.

After graduating with honors from Northeast Lauderdale County High School, he attained an Associate of Arts degree in pre-engineering from East Mississippi Junior College where he played football. Following graduation and commissioning from Mississippi State University in 1985 as a Distinguished Military Graduate with a Bachelors of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering, he began his active duty career as an Army Engineer Officer. Tracy currently holds a master's degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in National Resources Strategy from the National Defense University/Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington D.C..



Prior to attending the Senior Service College, COL Smith was assigned to the Pentagon for his second tour on the Army Staff to stand up the Army Diversity Office. Prior to this assignment he commanded two battalions in the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Kentucky. On 5 July 2003 he took command of the 326th Engineer Battalion (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom I, where he served as the Division Engineer for 4 engineer battalions; 2 Fire Fighting Detachments; EOD team; Well Drilling Detachment; Utilities Detachment; and an Engineer Group Headquarters totaling more than 2,500 Soldiers. Upon redeployment from Iraq, COL Smith inactivated the divisional engineer battalion as part of Army Transformation while simultaneously forming and activating the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion/1st Brigade Combat Team/101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). His other commands include two Engineer Companies: the 887th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) and Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

Other assignments include Chief of Program Integration Branch, Office of the Chief of Engineers, the Army Staff (Pentagon), Aide-de-Camp, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington D.C.; Battalion

Executive Officer, 1-395th (Training Support) Engineer Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas; Brigade S-3, 2nd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Engineer Brigade, South Korea; Engineer Captains Assignment Officer, PERSCOM; Assistant S-3 Training, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm; and Platoon Leader of a Medium Girder Bridge(MGB) platoon in United States Army Europe.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with six oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Korean Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Government of Kuwait), War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Staff Identification Badge, the Airborne, Air Assault and Combat Action badge.

COL Smith will take command of the 174th Infantry Brigade, First Army Division East, Fort Drum, New York the summer of 2008 after redeploying from Iraq. His mission with the 174th Infantry Brigade will be to execute a full spectrum Training, Readiness, Oversight, and Mobilization (TRO&M) Mission within the 1st Army area of responsibility in order to support the Department of Defense's Pre and Post Mobilization providing the toughest, most realistic combat training available to every National Guard and Reserve Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine to accomplish their tasks forward deployed in combat. The 174th Infantry Brigade has an On Order mission to deploy and provide operational training and support within the regional Combatant Commander's Areas of Responsibility in order to accomplish theater strategic objectives.